

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on January 19, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 26 are amended. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claims 9 and 22 are allowed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 10-11, 13, 17, 23-24, and 26 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-8, 10-21, and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the term “fixed” added to claims 1 and 14 is not contained in specification. Claims 1 and 14 are amended herein to delete the term “fixed”. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 21, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katzin (US 6,261,253).

Claims 7 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzin in view of Grim (US 5,058,576).

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzin

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claim 1 is also amended to delete the term “fixed” objected to by the Examiner. Claim 3 is amended to depend from allowed claim 9. Claim 7 is amended to correct an error in the previous amendment.

Claim 10, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the inclusion of the subject matter of original claim 1. Claim 11 is amended to depend from claim 10. Claim 13 is amended to depend from allowed claim 9.

Claim 14 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23. Claim 23 is amended to depend from allowed claim 22.

Claim 17, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by including the subject matter of original claims 14 and 16.

Claim 26 is amended to depend from allowed claim 22.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance, as each of the claims either contains allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, or depends from such a claim.

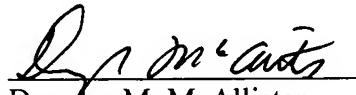
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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